

SUPPORT for SB1076 – An Act Concerning Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients

To the Public Health Committee:

I wish to express my strong support for SB1076 as a measure to relieve human suffering at the end of life. While I believe this bill does not go far enough in affording a choice of end-of-life options, it is a good first step towards giving those dying from inoperable or untreatable conditions relief from unbearable suffering.

In 1998, my father began suffering from very painful, progressive neuropathy. It started in his toes and moved up his body until he was fully paralyzed. He saw specialists from the Mayo Clinic to Massachusetts General, but his condition was untreatable. His quality of life became like a prison sentence. In spite of the best skilled care available, he was in so much pain that he couldn't enjoy any part of life.

My father had attempted to make his wishes and advance directives known by every means available at the time, but there was no way for his doctors help him end his life. Throughout his ordeal, until he lost the power of speech, he would tell his visitors, "This is no way to live." He died the day after Thanksgiving 2010.

Like her husband, my mother had also made her wishes known by every means possible. And as in my father's case, no one could help her leave her suffering. She died of inoperable metastatic breast cancer, sedated by morphine, in 2014, several years longer than she wished to live. Many families can share similar stories of unnecessary additional grief caused by watching their loved ones suffer much longer than necessary.

Knowing that I will probably die by one of the diseases that killed my parents, I am urgently concerned that Connecticut have provisions in place for those who will need them. I ask you to support passage of SB1076.

Thank you for your consideration of this message.

Sincerely,
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